

Bashar al-Assad will ultimately pay an awful, eternal price when he meets his Maker. Let's move that appointment up so that justice here or in the afterlife is swift and soon. Let's shine our light on the actions of Iran and Russia. Let's expose with that brightness the torture and the bombing of aid convoys and hospitals. Let's shine that light on the plight of people simply trying to live their lives and to raise their children to be police officers, doctors, farmers, factory workers, and mothers and fathers.

Let's speak out for the freedom-loving people who so desperately need our voice. Let's shine our light on the oppressive darkness around the world.

Mr. Speaker, let's save Syria.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IBEW LOCAL 134, DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with excitement and a sense of pride in my heart. Today, Mr. Speaker, I am here to share some great news coming out of my hometown of Chicago, Illinois, because next week, on Monday, a group of smart, dedicated, and hard-working young African American men from Dunbar High School located in my district will start new jobs in the skills-based industry.

These jobs, Mr. Speaker, and the young men's employment are a result of a robust partnership and a sincere commitment to diversity that brought the city of Chicago, the Chicago public schools, and the IBEW Local 134 together to form an innovative construction trades program.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely encouraged by these motivated and diligent young men who never gave up and who saw the opportunity and hope that was available to them that extended beyond their environment. This program, the partnership it represents, and the hopes that it inspires is spot on. It is exactly the type of investment our most vulnerable communities need because it has the potential to yield life-altering results.

Programs like this one not only provide hope by decreasing joblessness, but they have the ability to play a major role in reducing the pervasive violence that plagues our Nation and our communities.

This particular program, Mr. Speaker, is an important endeavor that offers more opportunities to underserved communities across the Nation by providing students in their junior and senior years of high school the chance to learn skills in fields including general construction, carpentry, heating, air conditioning, plumbing, welding, and electrical work, among many, many others.

After graduation, students have multiple options available to them. They can enter a pre-apprenticeship program; they can pursue a postsecondary education; or they can obtain professional certification that will lead to immediate employment, as it has for these young men.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a moment and recognize Mayor Rahm Emanuel's commitment to seeing this program's initiation and inauguration to get off the ground.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this would not have been possible without the hard work and devotion of some dedicated individuals and organizations. So I want to thank the IBEW Local 134 and Don Finn, its president, and the city of Chicago, the Chicago public schools, and, most importantly, the instructors and the mentors of these young men for their persistence in seeing that this vision emerged and ensuring that the next generation that builds America represents the diversity of America.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely wish these young men the best as they embark on this new chapter in their lives. I want them to know that, with their perseverance, they have made it easier for those individuals, those young men and young women, who will follow in their footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

WHERE IS THE GOP?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to follow Mr. RUSH, who was my Congressman growing up all through high school and actually in elementary school.

Mr. Speaker, at this very moment, House Republicans are racing out of Washington. Families are being torn apart; children are being ripped from the arms of their mothers; and women who have fled horrific violence are being deported back to their abusers. Yet my Republican colleagues are nowhere to be found.

Where are they, Mr. Speaker?

House Republicans are fleeing the scene of an accident. They are running from the shame and embarrassment of yesterday's vote on the GOP immigration bill. They are headed for the exits while thousands of kids cry in cages at our borders tonight.

That is right, with the world watching and with a humanitarian crisis unfolding right here in America, Speaker RYAN and the House Republicans simply just gave up and went home.

The other party fought for weeks behind closed doors. They traded accusations and insults, many of which were quickly leaked to the press. Yesterday, they finally put an immigration bill on

the House floor, and it failed by the largest margin in recent memory.

But instead of allowing a vote on a true compromise, like the Aguilar-Hurd legislation, Speaker RYAN and his leadership team decided to call it quits. They chose to put their fingers in their ears while thousands of kids are crying out for their mothers.

Mr. Speaker, 121-301. That was the vote yesterday, and 121-301 tells the story of a Republican Conference in crisis. When he officially retires, 121-301 should be in the first line of any story written about PAUL RYAN's speakership.

If Republicans aren't interested in governing, they should at least step aside and let Democrats take over. If Speaker RYAN isn't interested in actually solving problems, he should get an early start on his retirement, because right now, it sure looks like House Republicans are more interested in fighting each other than fighting for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a lot about civility as of late. Republicans are upset that Members of this body have said mean things about the President. Republicans whine on FOX News about the White House press secretary being turned away from a restaurant. Republicans writing in the opinion pages are wringing their hands about the deterioration of our public discourse. Give me a break already.

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Isn't it time that we worried less about the lack of civility in our politics and more about the lack of humanity in our government?

Here is all I ask: When my Republican colleagues are enjoying their fireworks and barbecues with their loved ones next week, I hope they will spare a thought for the mothers separated from their loved ones because of Donald Trump's outrageous cruelty. And I hope, just for a minute, that my Republican friends will pause and think about their own responsibility for this tragedy.

I hope, just for a moment, that they will stop to wonder what future generations of Americans will say about the leaders of today who opted for silence or civility in the face of so much human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in the House of Representatives today to announce the reintroduction of the LGBTQ Pride